

a video layer comprising a plurality of title objects, wherein the video layer is derived from a video stream received from a transmission source; and

a graphics layer comprising a plurality of overlay objects, wherein each of the overlay objects is associated with a respective title object in the video layer and is selectively controlled to visually emphasize or de-emphasize.

8. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein an opacity level of each overlay object is adjustable to visually emphasize or de-emphasize the associated title object.

9. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein a color of each overlay object is adjustable to visually emphasize or de-emphasize the associated title object.

10. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein de-emphasized title objects are substantially hidden from view.

11. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the overlay objects are selectively controlled to hide or reveal the associated title objects.

12. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein emphasized title objects are depicted as high intensity objects on the guide page and de-emphasized title objects are depicted as low intensity objects.

13. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein an amount of de-emphasize for each title object is adjustable in discrete increments.

14. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein at least one of the overlay objects in the graphics layer is a transparent overlay that does not visually alter the associated title object.

15. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein each overlay object in the graphics layer is implemented as a bar having a particular shape.

16. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein each overlay object in the graphics layer is implemented as horizontal bar.

17. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein each overlay object is associated with a particular x-y coordinate.

18. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein each title object in the video layer represents a program in a listing of programs.

19. (New) The guide page of claim 18, wherein the listing of programs includes prior, current, or future time programming, or a combination thereof.

20. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein each title object is associated with a respective program for a particular channel and time slot.

21. (New) The guide page of claim 20, wherein title objects not associated with a desired time slot are masked by controlling the associated overlay objects.

22. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein each title object corresponds to a manipulable object within the video layer.

23. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the title objects in the video layer are visually emphasized or de-emphasized in response to user manipulations via a remote control unit.

24. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the overlay objects in the graphics layer are controlled locally at a set top terminal.

25. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the graphics layer is modified in response to a user command.

26. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the graphics layer is derived based in part on data received from the transmission source.

27. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the graphics layer is generated at the transmission source and received via one or more streams.

28. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the overlay objects are arranged in the graphics layer based on overlay parameters received from the transmission source.

29. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the graphics layer is generated locally at a set top terminal.

30. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the graphics layer is generated using one or more bitmaps.

31. (New) The guide page of claim 30, wherein the one or more bitmaps are pre-programmed at a set top terminal.

32. (New) The guide page of claim 30, wherein the one or more bitmaps are updatable at a set top terminal.

33. (New) The guide page of claim 30, wherein the one or more bitmaps are synchronized to the video layer via signaling sent via a data delivery means.

34. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein the graphics layer includes an icon representative of a particular channel selected for processing.

35. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein an emphasized title object can be selected to retrieve a video stream or an audio stream, or both, associated with the emphasized title object.

36. (New) The guide page of claim 7, wherein an emphasized title object can be selected to change a level of abstraction, wherein each of a plurality of possible levels of abstraction defines a particular manner in which data is presented on the program guide page.

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37. (New) The guide page of claim 36, wherein the plurality of levels of abstraction include an interaction model that includes manipulations requiring no interaction with the transmission source.

38. (New) The guide page of claim 36, wherein the plurality of levels of abstraction include an interface model that includes manipulations requiring interaction with the transmission source.

39. (New) The guide page of claim 36, wherein the plurality of levels of abstraction include a contextual level indicative of replacement of the video layer in response to a user command.

40. (New) An interactive program guide (IPG) page comprising:  
a video layer comprising a plurality of title objects, wherein each title object is associated a particular channel and time slot, and wherein the video layer is derived from a video stream received from a transmission source; and  
a graphics layer comprising a plurality of overlay objects, wherein each overlay object is associated with a respective title object in the video layer and is selectively controlled to hide or reveal the associated title object.

41. (New) The IPG page of claim 40, wherein the video layer includes title objects for a plurality of time slots, and wherein title objects corresponding to a

selected time slot are revealed and title objects corresponding to remaining time slots are hidden from view.

42. (New) The IPG page of claim 40, wherein the video layer is divided into a plurality of regions including a guide region and a video region.

43. (New) The IPG page of claim 42, wherein the plurality of regions further includes a program description region used to display program information for a particular program.

44. (New) The IPG page of claim 42, wherein the guide region presents a listing of programs and is generated at the transmission source.

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45. (New) An interactive program guide (IPG) page comprising:  
a video layer comprising a guide region and a video region, wherein the guide region includes a plurality of title objects, and wherein each title object is associated with a particular channel and time slot; and

a graphics layer comprising a plurality of overlay objects, wherein each overlay object is associated with a respective title object in the video layer and is selectively controlled to emphasize or de-emphasize the associated title object.

46. (New) The IPG page of claim 45, wherein the video layer further includes a plurality of icons representative of a plurality of user selectable options.

47. (New) The IPG page of claim 45, wherein the video layer further includes a program description region.

48. (New) The IPG page of claim 45, wherein a first set of one or more title objects in the guide region is emphasized and a second set of one or more title objects in the guide region is de-emphasized.

49. (New) The IPG page of claim 45, wherein the title objects in the guide region and the overlay objects in the graphics layer are generated at a transmission source.

50. (New) The IPG page of claim 45, wherein the title objects in the guide region are generated at a transmission source and the overlay objects in the graphics layer are generated locally at a set top terminal.

51. (New) The method for providing an interactive program guide (IPG) page at a set top terminal, the method comprising:

receiving a video stream from a transmission source;  
processing the received video stream to provide a video layer for the IPG page, wherein the video layer includes a plurality of title objects, and wherein each title object is associated with a respective channel and time slot; and  
presenting a graphics layer having included therein a plurality of overlay objects, wherein each overlay object is associated with a respective title object in the video layer and is selectively controlled to visually emphasize or de-emphasize the associated title object.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising:  
merging the video layer with the graphics layer to provide an output video.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the video and graphics layers are generated at the transmission source.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the video layer is generated at the transmission source and the graphics layer is generated locally at the set top terminal.

55. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising:  
receiving a user command to change emphasis on one or more title objects; and

modifying the graphics layer in response to the user command.

56. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising:  
receiving a user command selecting a particular title object; and  
processing a stream associated with the particular title object to retrieve selected information.

57. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising:  
receiving a command to change a level of abstraction; and  
changing the level of abstraction in response to the received command, and  
wherein each of a plurality of possible levels of abstraction defines a particular manner in which data is presented on the IPG page.

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58. (New) The method for providing a guide page at a set top terminal, the method comprising:  
receiving a first stream from a transmission source;  
processing the first stream to provide a video layer for the guide page, wherein the video layer includes a plurality of title objects;  
receiving a second stream from the transmission source;  
processing the second stream to provide a graphics layer for the guide page, wherein the graphics layer includes therein a plurality of overlay objects, and wherein each overlay object is associated with a respective title object in the video layer and is selectively controlled to visually emphasize or de-emphasize the associated title object.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising:  
receiving a user command to emphasize or de-emphasize a particular title object; and  
modifying the graphics layer in response to the user command.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the modifying is performed locally at a receiving device.

61. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising:  
receiving a user command for a particular selection; and  
sending a request to the transmission source for additional data if the user request cannot be processed based on available data at a set top terminal.

62. (New) A set top terminal (STT) operative to provide an interactive program guide (IPG) page, comprising:

a demodulator operative to receive a modulated signal and provide a transport stream;

a transport de-multiplexer coupled to the demodulator and operative to receive and process the transport stream to provide a plurality of elementary streams;

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a video decoder coupled to the transport de-multiplexer and operative to decode a first elementary stream to provide a video layer for the IPG page, wherein the video layer includes a plurality of title objects, and wherein each title object is associated with a respective channel and time slot in a program guide listing;

an on-screen display (OSD) processor operative to provide a graphics layer having included therein a plurality of overlay objects, wherein each overlay object is associated with a respective title object in the video layer and is selectively controlled to visually emphasize or de-emphasize the associated title object; and

a compositor coupled to the video decoder and the OSD processor and operative to combine the video layer with the graphics layer to provide the IPG page.

63. (New) The STT of claim 62, further comprising:  
a controller coupled to the OSD processor and operative to provide a signal used to provide the graphics layer.

64. (New) The STT of claim 63, wherein the controller is operative to receive a user command and, in response, modifies the signal provided to the OSD processor.

65. (New) The STT of claim 62, wherein the controller includes